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Bosuwan, N., López Lagomasino, G., & Zaldivar Gerpe, Y. (2019). Direct and inverse results for multipoint Hermite-Padé approximants. Analysis and Mathematical Physics, 9(2), 761–779.

DOI: 10.1007/s13324-019-00316-8

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Direct and Inverse Results for Multipoint Hermite-Padé Approximants

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Abstract

Given a system of functions $\mathbf{f} = (f_1, \ldots, f_d)$ analytic on a neighborhood of some compact subset E of the complex plane, we give necessary and sufficient conditions for the convergence with geometric rate of the common denominators of multipoint Hermite-Padé approximants. The exact rate of convergence of these denominators and of the approximants themselves is given in terms of the analytic properties of the system of functions. These results allow to detect the location of the poles of the system of functions which are in some sense "closest" to E.

Keywords: Montessus de Ballore theorem, multipoint Padé approximation, Hermite-Padé approximation, inverse type results.

AMS classification: Primary 30E10, 41A21; Secondary 41A28.

1 Statement of the main result.

We shall consider a general interpolation scheme for constructing vector rational approximations to a given vector of analytic functions which generalizes the construction of the classical Hermite-Padé approximants.

Let E be a bounded continuum with connected complement in the complex plane \mathbb{C} . By $\mathcal{H}(E)$ we denote the space of all functions holomorphic in some neighborhood of E. Set

$$\mathcal{H}(E)^d := \{ (f_1, \ldots, f_d) : f_j \in \mathcal{H}(E), j = 1, \ldots, d \}.$$

Let $\alpha \subset E$ be a table of points; more precisely, $\alpha = \{\alpha_{n,k}\}, k = 1, \ldots, n, n = 1, 2, \ldots$ We propose the following definition.

Definition 1.1. Let $\mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{H}(E)^d$. Fix a multi-index $\mathbf{m} = (m_1, \ldots, m_d) \in \mathbb{N}^d$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Set $|\mathbf{m}| = m_1 + \cdots + m_d$. Then, there exist polynomials $Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}, P_{n,\mathbf{m},k}, k = 1, \ldots, d$ such that

b.1) deg $P_{n,\mathbf{m},k} \leq n - m_k$, deg $Q_{n,\mathbf{m}} \leq |\mathbf{m}|, Q_{n,\mathbf{m}} \neq 0$,

b.2) $(Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}f_k - P_{n,\mathbf{m},k})/a_{n+1} \in \mathcal{H}(E),$

^{*}The research of N. Bosuwan was supported by the Strengthen Research Grant for New Lecturer from the Thailand Research Fund and the Office of the Higher Education Commission (MRG6080133) and Faculty of Science, Mahidol University.

[†]G. López Lagomasino and Y. Zaldivar Gerpe received support from research grant MTM 2015-65888-C4-2-P of Ministerio de Economía, Industria y Competitividad, Spain.

where $a_n(z) = \prod_{k=1}^n (z - \alpha_{n,k})$. The vector rational function

$$\mathbf{R}_{n,\mathbf{m}} = (R_{n,\mathbf{m},1},\ldots,R_{n,\mathbf{m},d}) = (P_{n,\mathbf{m},1},\ldots,P_{n,\mathbf{m},d})/Q_{n,\mathbf{m},d}$$

is called a multipoint Hermite-Padé (MHP) approximant of \mathbf{f} with respect to \mathbf{m} and α .

This vector rational approximation, in general, is not uniquely determined. Hereafter, we assume that given (n, \mathbf{m}) , one particular solution is taken. Without loss of generality we can assume that $Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}$ is a monic polynomial that has no common zero simultaneously with all $P_{n,\mathbf{m},k}$. In all what follows \mathbf{m} remains fixed and $\{\mathbf{R}_{n,\mathbf{m}}\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ is called a row sequence of MHP of \mathbf{f} with respect to \mathbf{m} .

Multipoint Hermite-Padé approximation reduces to classical Hermite-Padé approximation when E is a disk about the origin and $a_n(z) = z^n$. There are not many papers dealing with the convergence properties of row sequences of Hermite-Padé approximation. The first significant contribution in this direction is due to Graves-Morris and Saff in [9], where an analogue of the Montessus de Ballore theorem [10] was proved. In that paper, the authors studied the classical case and stated a result for multipoint interpolation. They assume that the system of approximated functions is, so called, polewise independent. More recently, the authors of [4] and [5] managed to weaken the assumption of polewise independence obtaining sharp estimates of the rate of convergence, improving the region of convergence, and giving an analogue of Gonchar's converse statement to the Montessus de Ballore theorem for row sequences of Padé approximants (see Remark in [6], also [7] and [8]). Here, we generalize the results in [5] to MHP approximants. Extensions in other directions using expansions in orthogonal and Faber polynomials of the vector function to produce the vector rational approximants of **f** were provided in [1, 2]. For other approaches to the study of row sequences of vector rational approximation see [11] and [12].

In the study of the convergence of general interpolation schemes, it is common to impose on the table of interpolation nodes various restrictions which determine the asymptotic behavior of the sequence of polynomials a_n . Let Φ_E be a holomorphic univalent function mapping the complement of E onto the exterior of the closed unit disk with $\Phi_E(\infty) = \infty$ and $\Phi'_E(\infty) > 0$. It is well known that there exist tables of points α satisfying the condition

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} |a_n(z)|^{1/n} = c |\Phi_E(z)|, \tag{1.1}$$

or the stronger condition

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} a_n(z)/c^n \Phi_E^n(z) = G(z) \neq 0, \tag{1.2}$$

uniformly on compact subsets of $\overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus E$, where c denotes some positive constant, see [13, Chapters 8-9]. For each $\rho > 1$, we introduce

$$\Gamma_{\rho} := \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : |\Phi_E(z)| = \rho \}, \quad \text{and} \quad D_{\rho} := E \cup \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : |\Phi_E(z)| < \rho \}$$

as the level curve of index ρ and the canonical domain of index ρ , respectively. Let $\rho_0(\mathbf{f})$ be equal to the index ρ of the largest canonical domain D_{ρ} to which all f_k , $k = 1, \ldots, d$ can be extended as holomorphic functions simultaneously.

Gonchar proved the following analogue of the Cauchy-Hadamard formula for $f \in \mathcal{H}(E)$ and interpolation tables satisfying (1.2):

$$\rho_0(f) = \left(c \cdot \limsup_{n \to \infty} \left| \int_{\Gamma} \frac{f(t)}{a_{n+1}(t)} dt \right|^{1/n} \right)^{-1}, \qquad (1.3)$$

where Γ is a contour encircling E and lying in the domain of holomorphy of f. This formula is a special case of [3, Corollary 3]. (We point out that (1.3) is displayed as formula (17) in [3], but with the typo that c is missing.)

Definition 1.2. Given $\mathbf{f} = (f_1, \ldots, f_d) \in \mathcal{H}(E)^d$ and $\mathbf{m} = (m_1, \ldots, m_d) \in \mathbb{N}^d$ we say that $\xi \in \mathbb{C}$ is a system pole of order τ of (\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m}) if τ is the largest positive integer such that for each $s = 1, \ldots, \tau$ there exists at least one polynomial combination of the form

$$\sum_{k=1}^{d} p_k f_k, \qquad \deg p_k < m_k, \qquad k = 1, \dots, d,$$
(1.4)

which is analytic in a neighborhood of $\overline{D}_{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}$ except for a pole at $z = \xi$ of exact order s.

The concept of system pole depends not only on the system of functions \mathbf{f} but also on the multi index \mathbf{m} . For example, poles of the individual functions f_k need not be system poles of (\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m}) and system poles need not be poles of any of the functions f_k (see examples in [5]). It is easy to see that system poles also depend on α , or more precisely on the geometry of the associated canonical regions. However, since \mathbf{m} and α will remain fixed, occasionally we may simply refer to system poles of \mathbf{f} .

Let τ be the order of ξ as a system pole of **f**. For each $s = 1, \ldots, \tau$, let $\rho_{\xi,s}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})$ denote the largest of all the numbers $\rho_s(g)$ (the index of the largest canonical domain containing at most *s* poles of *g*), where *g* is a polynomial combination of type (1.4) that is holomorphic on a neighborhood of $\overline{D}_{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}$ except for a pole at $z = \xi$ of order *s*. Then, we define

$$R_{\xi,s}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m}) := \min_{k=1,\dots,s} \rho_{\xi,k}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m}),$$

and

$$R_{\xi}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m}) := R_{\xi, \tau}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m}) = \min_{k=1, \dots, \tau} \rho_{\xi, k}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m}).$$

Fix $k = \{1, \ldots, d\}$. Let $D_k(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})$ be the largest canonical domain in which all the poles of f_k are system poles of \mathbf{f} with respect to \mathbf{m} , their order as poles of f_k does not exceed their order as system poles, and f_k has no other singularity. By $R_k(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})$, we denote the index of this canonical domain. Let ξ_1, \ldots, ξ_N be the poles of f_k in $D_k(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})$. For each $j = 1, \ldots, N$, let $\hat{\tau}_j$ be the order of ξ_j as pole of f_k and τ_j be its order as a system pole. By assumption, $\hat{\tau}_j \leq \tau_j$. Set

$$R_k^*(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m}) := \min\left\{R_k(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m}), \min_{j=1,...,N} R_{\xi_j, \hat{\tau}_j}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})\right\}$$

and let $D_k^*(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})$ be the canonical domain with this index.

By $Q_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}$ we denote the monic polynomial whose zeros are the system poles of \mathbf{f} with respect to \mathbf{m} taking account of their order. The set of distinct zeros of $Q_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}$ is denoted by $\mathcal{P}_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}$.

The following theorem constitutes our main result.

Theorem 1.3. Suppose (1.2) takes place. Let $\mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{H}(E)^d$ and fix a multi-index $\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{N}^d$. Then, the next two assertions are equivalent:

(a) **f** has exactly $|\mathbf{m}|$ system poles with respect to **m** counting multiplicities.

(b) For all sufficiently large n, the denominators $Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}$ of multipoint Hermite-Padé approximants of \mathbf{f} are uniquely determined and there exists a polynomial $Q_{\mathbf{m}}$ of degree $|\mathbf{m}|$ such that

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \|Q_{n,\mathbf{m}} - Q_{\mathbf{m}}\|^{1/n} = \theta < 1, \tag{1.5}$$

where $\|\cdot\|$ denotes the coefficient norm in the space of polynomials of degree $\leq |\mathbf{m}|$. Moreover, if either (a) or (b) takes place, then $Q_{\mathbf{m}} \equiv Q_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}$,

$$\theta = \max\left\{\frac{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}{R_{\xi}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})} : \xi \in \mathcal{P}_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}\right\},\tag{1.6}$$

and for any compact subset \mathcal{K} of $D_k^*(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m}) \setminus \mathcal{P}_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}$,

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \|R_{n,\mathbf{m},k} - f_k\|_{\mathcal{K}}^{1/n} \le \frac{\|\Phi_E\|_{\mathcal{K}}}{R_k^*(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})},\tag{1.7}$$

where $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{K}}$ denotes the sup-norm on \mathcal{K} and if $\mathcal{K} \subset E$, then $\|\Phi_E\|_{\mathcal{K}}$ is replaced by 1.

2 Direct statements

2.1 An auxiliary result

For each $n \ge |\mathbf{m}|$, let $q_{n,\mathbf{m}}$ be the polynomial $Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}$ normalized so that

$$\sum_{k=0}^{|\mathbf{m}|} |\lambda_{n,k}| = 1, \qquad q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{|\mathbf{m}|} \lambda_{n,k} z^k.$$
(2.1)

This normalization implies that the polynomials $q_{n,\mathbf{m}}$ are uniformly bounded on each compact subset of \mathbb{C} .

Lemma 2.1. Let $\mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{H}(E)^d$ and fix a multi-index $\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{N}^d$. Assume that (1.2) takes place and ξ is a system pole of order τ of \mathbf{f} with respect to \mathbf{m} . Then

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} |q_{n,\mathbf{m}}^{(s)}(\xi)|^{1/n} \le \frac{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}{R_{\xi,s+1}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})}, \qquad s = 0, \dots, \tau - 1.$$
(2.2)

Proof. Consider a polynomial combination g_1 of type (1.4) that is analytic on a neighborhood of $\overline{D}_{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}$ except for a simple pole $z = \xi$ and verifies that $\rho_1(g_1) = R_{\xi,1}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m}) (= \rho_{\xi,1}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m}))$. Then, we have

$$g_1 = \sum_{k=1}^d p_{k,1} f_k, \quad \deg p_{k,1} < m_k, \quad k = 1, \dots, d.$$

Define $h_1(z) = (z - \xi)g_1(z)$. The function

$$\frac{q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(z)h_1(z)}{a_{n+1}(z)} - \frac{z-\xi}{a_{n+1}(z)} \sum_{k=1}^d p_{k,1}(z) P_{n,\mathbf{m},k}(z)$$

is analytic on $D_{\rho_1(g_1)}$. Take $1 < \rho < \rho_1(g_1)$, and set $\Gamma_{\rho} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |\Phi_E(z)| = \rho\}$. Set $P_{n,1}(z) = \sum_{k=1}^d p_{k,1}(z)P_{n,\mathbf{m},k}(z)$. Since $\deg(z-\xi)P_{n,1}(z) \le n$, we have $\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma_{\rho}} \frac{(t-\xi)P_{n,1}(t)}{(t-z)a_{n+1}(t)} dt = 0.$ Using Hermite's interpolation formula (see [13]), we obtain

$$q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(z)h_1(z) - (z-\xi)\sum_{k=1}^d p_{k,1}P_{n,\mathbf{m},k}(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i}\int_{\Gamma_\rho} \frac{a_{n+1}(z)}{a_{n+1}(t)}\frac{q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(t)h_1(t)}{t-z}dt$$

for all z with $|\Phi_E(z)| < \rho$. In particular, taking $z = \xi$ in the above formula, we arrive at

$$q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(\xi)h_1(\xi) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma_\rho} \frac{a_{n+1}(\xi)}{a_{n+1}(t)} \frac{q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(t)h_1(t)}{t-\xi} dt.$$
 (2.3)

Then, taking account of (1.2), it easily follows that

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} |q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(\xi)h_1(\xi)|^{1/n} \le \frac{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}{\rho}.$$

Using that $h_1(\xi) \neq 0$ and making ρ tend to $\rho_1(g_1)$, we obtain

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} |q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(\xi)|^{1/n} \le \frac{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}{R_{\xi,1}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})} < 1.$$

Now, we employ induction. Suppose that

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} |q_{n,\mathbf{m}}^{(j)}(\xi)|^{1/n} \le \frac{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}{R_{\xi,j+1}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})}, \qquad j = 0, 1, \dots, s-2,$$
(2.4)

where $s \leq \tau$. Let us prove that formula (2.4) holds for j = s - 1. This will imply (2.2).

Consider a polynomial combination g_s of type (1.4) that is analytic on a neighborhood of $\overline{D}_{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}$ except for a pole of order s at $z = \xi$ and verifies that $\rho_s(g_s) = R_{\xi,s}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})$. Then,

$$g_s = \sum_{k=1}^d p_{k,s} f_k, \quad \deg p_{k,s} < m_k, \quad k = 1, \dots, d.$$

Set $h_s(z) = (z - \xi)^s g_s(z)$. The function

$$\frac{q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(z)h_s(z)}{a_{n+1}(z)(z-\xi)^{s-1}} - \frac{z-\xi}{a_{n+1}(z)}\sum_{k=1}^d p_{k,s}(z)P_{n,\mathbf{m},k}(z)$$

is analytic on $D_{\rho_s(g_s)} \setminus \{\xi\}$. Set $P_{n,s} = \sum_{k=1}^d p_{k,s} P_{n,\mathbf{m},k}$. Fix an arbitrary compact set $\mathcal{K} \subset D_{\rho_s(g_s)} \setminus \{\xi\}$. Take $\delta > 0$ sufficiently small so that $\{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - \xi| \leq \delta\} \cap \mathcal{K} = \emptyset$ and $1 < \rho < \rho_s(g_s)$. Using Hermite's interpolation formula, for all $z \in \mathcal{K}$, we have

$$\frac{q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(z)h_s(z)}{(z-\xi)^{s-1}} - (z-\xi)P_{n,s}(z) = I_n(z) - J_n(z),$$
(2.5)

where

$$I_n(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma_\rho} \frac{a_{n+1}(z)}{a_{n+1}(t)} \frac{q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(t)h_s(t)}{(t-\xi)^{s-1}(t-z)} dt$$

and

$$J_n(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|t-\xi|=\delta} \frac{a_{n+1}(z)}{a_{n+1}(t)} \frac{q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(t)h_s(t)}{(t-\xi)^{s-1}(t-z)} dt.$$

The first integral I_n is estimated as in (2.3) to obtain

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \|I_n\|_{\mathcal{K}}^{1/n} \le \frac{\|\Phi_E\|_{\mathcal{K}}}{\rho_s(g_s)}.$$
(2.6)

For J_n , as deg $q_{n,\mathbf{m}} \leq |\mathbf{m}|$ write

$$q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(t) = \sum_{j=0}^{|\mathbf{m}|} \frac{q_{n,\mathbf{m}}^{(j)}(\xi)}{j!} (t-\xi)^j.$$

Then

$$J_n(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{s-2} \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|t-\xi|=\delta} \frac{a_{n+1}(z)}{a_{n+1}(t)} \frac{h_s(t)}{(t-\xi)^{s-1-j}} \frac{q_{n,\mathbf{m}}^{(j)}(\xi)}{j!(t-z)} dt.$$
(2.7)

Using the induction hypothesis (2.4), from (2.7) it easily follows that

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \|J_n\|_{\mathcal{K}}^{1/n} \le \frac{\|\Phi_E\|_{\mathcal{K}}}{|\Phi_E(\xi)|} \frac{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}{R_{\xi,s-1}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})} = \frac{\|\Phi_E\|_{\mathcal{K}}}{R_{\xi,s-1}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})}.$$
(2.8)

Now, (2.5), (2.6), and (2.8) give

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \|q_{n,\mathbf{m}}h_s - (z - \xi)^s P_{n,s}\|_{\mathcal{K}}^{1/n} \le \frac{\|\Phi_E\|_{\mathcal{K}}}{R_{\xi,s}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})}.$$
(2.9)

As the function inside the norm in (2.9) is analytic in $D_{\rho_l(g_l)}$, from the maximum principle it follows that (2.9) also holds for any compact set $\mathcal{K} \subset D_{\rho_l(g_l)}$. Using Cauchy's integral formula, from (2.9) we also obtain that

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \| (q_{n,\mathbf{m}}h_s - (z - \xi)^s P_{n,s})^{(s-1)} \|_{\mathcal{K}}^{1/n} \le \frac{\|\Phi_E\|_{\mathcal{K}}}{R_{\xi,s}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})}.$$
(2.10)

Taking $z = \xi$ in (2.10), we have

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} |(q_{n,\mathbf{m}}h_s)^{(s-1)}(\xi)|^{1/n} \le \frac{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}{R_{\xi,s}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})}$$

Using the Leibniz formula for higher derivatives of a product of two functions, the induction hypothesis (2.4), and that $h_s(\xi) \neq 0$, it follows that

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} |q_{n,\mathbf{m}}^{(s-1)}(\xi)|^{1/n} \le \frac{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}{R_{\xi,s}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})}$$

This completes the induction and the proof.

2.2 Proof of $(a) \Rightarrow (b)$

Let $\{\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_p\}$ be the distinct system poles of **f** with respect to **m**, and let τ_j be the order of ξ_j as a system pole, $j = 1, \ldots, p$. By assumption, $\tau_1 + \cdots + \tau_p = |\mathbf{m}|$. We have proved that, for $j = 1, \ldots, p$ and $s = 0, 1, \ldots, \tau_j - 1$,

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} |q_{n,\mathbf{m}}^{(s)}(\xi_j)|^{1/n} \le \frac{|\Phi_E(\xi_j)|}{R_{\xi_j,s+1}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})} \le \frac{|\Phi_E(\xi_j)|}{R_{\xi_j}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})},\tag{2.11}$$

where $R_{\xi_j}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m}) := R_{\xi_j, \tau_j}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})$. Using the Hermite interpolation, it is easy to construct a basis $\{\ell_{j,s}\}, 1 \leq j \leq p, 0 \leq s \leq \tau_j - 1$, in the space of polynomials of degree at most $|\mathbf{m}| - 1$ satisfying

$$\ell_{j,s}^{(k)}(\xi_i) = \delta_{i,j}\delta_{k,s}, \qquad 1 \le i \le p, \qquad 0 \le k \le \tau_i - 1.$$

Then,

$$q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(z) = \sum_{j=1}^{p} \sum_{s=0}^{\tau_j - 1} q_{n,\mathbf{m}}^{(s)}(\xi_j) \ell_{j,s}(z) + \lambda_{n,|\mathbf{m}|} Q_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}.$$
(2.12)

Using (2.11) and (2.12), we have for any compact set $\mathcal{K} \subset \mathbb{C}$,

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \|q_{n,\mathbf{m}} - \lambda_{n,|\mathbf{m}|} Q_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}\|_{\mathcal{K}}^{1/n} \le \theta,$$
(2.13)

where

$$\theta = \max\left\{\frac{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}{R_{\xi}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})}: \ \xi \in \mathcal{P}_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}\right\} < 1.$$
(2.14)

Now, necessarily

$$\liminf_{n \to \infty} |\lambda_{n,|\mathbf{m}|}| > 0. \tag{2.15}$$

Indeed, if there is a subsequence of indices $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{N}$ such that $\lim_{n \in \Lambda} |\lambda_{n,|\mathbf{m}|}| = 0$, then from (2.14), as the polynomials $q_{n,\mathbf{m}}$ converge, we would have that $\lim_{n \in \Lambda} q_{n,\mathbf{m}} = 0$ which contradicts (2.1). Since

$$q_{n,\mathbf{m}} = \lambda_{n,|\mathbf{m}|} Q_{n,\mathbf{m}},\tag{2.16}$$

from (2.13) and (2.15) it follows that

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \|Q_{n,\mathbf{m}} - Q_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}\|_{\mathcal{K}}^{1/n} \le \theta.$$
(2.17)

In finite dimensional spaces all norms are equivalent; therefore, (2.17) is also true with the coefficient norm which means that (1.5) is satisfied with = replaced by \leq .

In particular, for all sufficiently large n necessarily deg $Q_{n,\mathbf{m}} = |\mathbf{m}|$. The difference of any two distinct monic polynomials satisfying Definition 1.1 with the same degree produces a new solution of degree strictly less than $|\mathbf{m}|$, but we have proved that any solution must have degree $|\mathbf{m}|$ for all sufficiently large n. Hence, the polynomial $Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}$ is uniquely determined for all sufficiently large n.

Now, we prove the equality in (1.5). To the contrary, suppose that

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \|Q_{n,\mathbf{m}} - Q_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}\|^{1/n} < \max\left\{\frac{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}{R_{\xi}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})}: \xi \in \mathcal{P}_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}\right\}.$$
(2.18)

Let ζ be a system pole of **f** such that

$$\frac{|\Phi_E(\zeta)|}{R_{\zeta}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})} = \max\left\{\frac{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}{R_{\xi}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})}: \xi \in \mathcal{P}_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}\right\}.$$
(2.19)

Clearly, the inequality (2.18) implies that $R_{\zeta}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m}) < \infty$.

Choose a polynomial combination

$$g = \sum_{k=1}^{d} p_k f_k, \quad \deg p_k < m_k, \quad k = 1, \dots, d,$$
 (2.20)

that is holomorphic on a neighborhood of $\overline{D}_{|\Phi_E(\zeta)|}$ except for a pole of some order l at $z = \zeta$ with $\rho_l(g) = R_{\zeta}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})$. Notice that $Q_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}g$ must have a singularity on the boundary of $D_{\rho_l(g)}$ which implies

$$\frac{1}{R_{\zeta}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})} = c \cdot \limsup_{n \to \infty} \left| \int_{\Gamma_{\rho}} \frac{Q_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}(t)g(t)}{a_{n+1}(t)} dt \right|^{1/n}.$$
(2.21)

In fact, if $Q_{\mathbf{m}g}^{\mathbf{f}}$ had no singularity on the boundary of $D_{\rho_l(g)}$, then all singularities of g on the boundary of $D_{\rho_l(g)}$ would be at most poles and their order as poles of g would be smaller than their order as system poles of f. In this case, we could find a different polynomial combination g_1 of type (2.20) for which $\rho_l(g_1) > \rho_l(g) = R_{\zeta}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})$ which contradicts the definition of $R_{\zeta}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})$. Therefore, $Q_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}g$ has a singularity on the the boundary of $D_{\rho_l(g)}$ and the equality (2.21) holds.

Now,

$$\left(Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(z)g(z) - \sum_{k=1}^{d} p_k(z)P_{n,\mathbf{m},k}(z)\right)/a_{n+1}(z)$$

is holomorphic in $D_{\rho_l(g)}$ and deg $\sum_{k=1}^d p_k P_{n,\mathbf{m},k} < n$; therefore, from Cauchy's integral theorem we have that

$$0 = \int_{\Gamma_{\rho}} \frac{Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(z)g(z) - \sum_{k=1}^{d} p_k(z)P_{n,\mathbf{m},k}(z)}{a_{n+1}(z)} dz = \int_{\Gamma_{\rho}} \frac{Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(z)g(z)}{a_{n+1}(z)} dz,$$
(2.22)

where $1 < \rho < |\Phi_E(\zeta)|$. Combining (2.21) and (2.22), we get

$$\frac{1}{R_{\zeta}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})} = c \cdot \limsup_{n \to \infty} \left| \int_{\Gamma_{\rho}} \frac{g(t)}{a_{n+1}(t)} \left(Q_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}(t) - Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(t) \right) dt \right|^{1/n}.$$
(2.23)

This equality is impossible because from (1.2), (2.18), and (2.19) it is not hard to deduce that (2.23) is strictly less than $1/R_{\zeta}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})$. This proves the equality in (1.5).

If ξ is any one of the system poles of **f** and τ its order, from (2.11) and (2.15), we have

$$\max_{j=0...,l} \limsup_{n \to \infty} |Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}^{(j)}(\xi)|^{1/n} \le \frac{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}{R_{\xi,l+1}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})}, \quad l = 0, 1, \dots, \tau - 1.$$
(2.24)

Now we are ready to prove (1.7). Let us fix $k \in \{1, \ldots, d\}$. Let \mathcal{K} be a compact subset contained in $D_k^*(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m}) \setminus \mathcal{P}_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}$. Take $\delta > 0$ sufficiently small so that

$$1 < \rho := R_k^*(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m}) - \delta, \qquad \mathcal{K} \subset D_\rho, \qquad \bigcup_{j=1}^{N_k} \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - \xi_j| \le \delta \} \subset D_\rho \setminus \mathcal{K},$$

where ξ_1, \ldots, ξ_{N_k} are the poles of f_k in $D_k^*(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})$. Set

$$C_j := \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - \xi_j| = \delta \}.$$

Let $\Gamma_{\rho,\delta}$ be the positively oriented curve determined by Γ_{ρ} and those circles C_j . On account of Definition 1.1, using Hermite's formula, we have

$$(Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}f_k - P_{n,\mathbf{m},k})(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma_{\rho,\delta}} \frac{a_{n+1}(z)}{a_{n+1}(t)} \frac{(Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}f_k)(t)}{t-z} dt.$$
 (2.25)

From (1.2) it readily follows that for all $z \in \mathcal{K}$,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \sup_{n \to \infty} \left| \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma_{\rho}} \frac{a_{n+1}(z)}{a_{n+1}(t)} \frac{(Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}f_k)(t)}{t-z} dt \right|^{1/n} \le \frac{\|\Phi_E\|_{\mathcal{K}}}{R_k^*(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})}.$$
(2.26)

Let $\hat{\tau}_j$ be the order of ξ_j as pole of f_k . Using the expansion

$$Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(t) = \sum_{l=0}^{|\mathbf{m}|} \frac{Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}^{(l)}(\xi_j)}{l!} (t - \xi_j)^l$$

for the circle C_j we have

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{C_j} \frac{a_{n+1}(z)}{a_{n+1}(t)} \frac{(Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}f_k)(t)}{t-z} dt = \sum_{l=0}^{\hat{\tau}_j-1} \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{C_j} \frac{a_{n+1}(z)}{a_{n+1}(t)} \frac{(t-\xi_j)^{\hat{\tau}_j} f_k(t)}{(t-\xi_j)^{\hat{\tau}_j-l}} \frac{Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}^{(l)}(\xi_j)}{l!(t-z)} dt \qquad (2.27)$$

because the function under the integral sign is analytic inside C_j for $\hat{\tau}_j \leq l \leq |\mathbf{m}|$. Now, (1.2) and (2.24) allow to deduce from (2.27) that for all $z \in \mathcal{K}$,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \sup_{n \to \infty} \left| \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{C_j} \frac{a_{n+1}(z)}{a_{n+1}(t)} \frac{(Q_{n,\mathbf{m}} f_k)(t)}{t-z} dt \right|^{1/n} \le \frac{\|\Phi_E\|_{\mathcal{K}}}{|\Phi_E(\xi_j)|} \frac{|\Phi_E(\xi_j)|}{R_{\xi_j,\hat{\tau}_j}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})}.$$
 (2.28)

Finally, (2.25), (2.26), and (2.28) give (1.7).

A slight variation of the arguments employed above allows to deduce the following corollary of independent interest.

Corollary 2.2. Let $\mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{H}(E)^d$ and fix a multi-index $\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{N}^d$. Suppose that (1.2) takes place and \mathbf{f} has exactly $|\mathbf{m}|$ system poles with respect to \mathbf{m} . Then, for every system pole ξ of \mathbf{f} ,

$$\max_{j=0...,l} \limsup_{n \to \infty} |Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}^{(j)}(\xi)|^{1/n} = \frac{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}{R_{\xi,l+1}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})}, \quad l = 0, 1, \dots, \tau - 1.$$
(2.29)

where τ is the order of ξ .

Proof. If (2.29) fails, due to (2.24), there is a system pole ξ of **f** of order τ such that for some $l, 0 \leq l < \tau$

$$\max_{j=0...,l} \limsup_{n \to \infty} |Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}^{(j)}(\xi)|^{1/n} < \frac{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}{R_{\xi,l+1}(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{m})}.$$
(2.30)

Now, we argue by contradiction as in the proof of the equality in (1.5).

Choose a polynomial combination g as in (2.20) that is analytic on a neighborhood of $\overline{D}_{|\Phi_E(\xi)|}$ except for a pole of order $s(\leq l+1)$ at $z = \xi$ with $\rho_s(g) = R_{\xi,l+1}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{m})$. Set $Q_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}} = Q_{\mathbf{m}}$. Take $\delta > 0$ sufficiently small and $1 < \rho < \rho_s(g)$. Let $\Gamma_{\rho,\delta}$ be the positively oriented curve determined by Γ_{ρ} and $\{t \in \mathbb{C} : |t - \xi| = \delta\}$. Arguing as in (2.21), it follows from (1.3) that

$$\frac{1}{\rho_s(g)} = c \cdot \limsup_{n \to \infty} \left| \int_{\Gamma_{\rho,\delta}} \frac{Q_{\mathbf{m}}(t)g(t)}{a_{n+1}(t)} dt \right|^{1/n}.$$
(2.31)

The function

$$\frac{H_n(z)}{a_{n+1}(z)} = \frac{Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}(z)g(z) - \sum_{k=1}^{a} p_k(z)P_{n,\mathbf{m},k}(z)}{a_{n+1}(z)}$$

is analytic in $D_{\rho_s}(g) \setminus \{\xi\}$ and

$$\int_{\Gamma_{\rho,\delta}} \frac{H_n(t)}{a_{n+1}(t)} dt = 0$$

Set $P_n := \sum_{k=1}^d p_k P_{n,\mathbf{m},k}$ and $h := (t - \xi)^s g$. Obviously,

$$Q_{\mathbf{m}}g = (Q_{\mathbf{m}} - Q_{n,\mathbf{m}})g + P_n + H_n,$$

and since deg $P_n \leq n-1$, we obtain

$$\begin{split} &\int_{\Gamma_{\rho,\delta}} \frac{Q_{\mathbf{m}}(t)g(t)}{a_{n+1}(t)} dt = \int_{\Gamma_{\rho,\delta}} \frac{[Q_{\mathbf{m}} - Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}](t)h(t)}{(t-\xi)^{s}a_{n+1}(t)} dt \\ &= \int_{\Gamma_{\rho}} \frac{[Q_{\mathbf{m}} - Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}](t)h(t)}{(t-\xi)^{s}a_{n+1}(t)} dt - \sum_{j=0}^{|\mathbf{m}|} \int_{|t-\xi|=\delta} \frac{[Q_{\mathbf{m}}^{(j)} - Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}^{(j)}](\xi)h(t)}{j!(t-\xi)^{s-j}a_{n+1}(t)} dt \\ &= \int_{\Gamma_{\rho}} \frac{[Q_{\mathbf{m}} - Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}](t)h(t)}{(t-\xi)^{s}a_{n+1}(t)} dt + \sum_{j=0}^{s-1} \int_{|t-\xi|=\delta} \frac{Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}^{(j)}(\xi)h(t)}{j!(t-\xi)^{s-j}a_{n+1}(t)} dt. \end{split}$$

Estimating these integrals, using (1.2), (1.5), and the assumption (2.30), it is easy to deduce that

$$c \cdot \limsup_{n \to \infty} \left| \int_{\Gamma_{\rho,\delta}} \frac{Q_{\mathbf{m}}(t)g(t)}{a_{n+1}(t)} dt \right|^{1/n} < \frac{1}{\rho_s(g)}$$

which contradicts (2.31). Therefore, (2.30) cannot occur and there is equality in (2.29). \Box

Remark 2.3. We wish to underline that for the proof of the previous results, excluding the equality in (1.5) and (2.29), it would have been sufficient to assume that the table of points verifies (1.1) instead of (1.2). The condition (1.2) has only been used in order to have the Cauchy Hadamard type formula (1.3). For the inverse type statement (b) \Rightarrow (a) the stronger assumption (1.2) is much more substantial.

3 Inverse statements

3.1 Some auxiliary results

Let

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f_n z^n \tag{3.1}$$

be a power series convergent in some neighborhood of the point z = 0 whose radius of convergence we denote $R_0(f)$. We find it convenient to denote the *n*-th Taylor coefficient f_n of the expansion f also by $[f]_n$. According to the Cauchy-Hadamard formula

$$R_0(f) = \left(\limsup_{n \to \infty} |[f]_n|^{1/n}\right)^{-1}$$

When $R_0(f) > 0$ we define

$$U_{\delta}(f) := \left\{ z \in \mathbb{C} : R_0(f)e^{-\delta} < |z| < R_0(f)e^{\delta} \right\}.$$

The following theorem was proved by V.I. Buslaev in [3, Theorem 2].

Buslaev's Theorem. Suppose that $\delta > 0$ and the power series (3.1) is such that $0 < R_0(f) < \infty$ and

$$[f\alpha_n]_n = o(R_0(f)^{-n} e^{-n\delta}), (3.2)$$

where $\alpha_n \in \mathcal{H}(U_{\delta}(f))$ (n = 1, 2, ...) and $\lim_{n \to \infty} \alpha_n(z) = \alpha(z)$ $(z \in U_{\delta}(f))$. Then α has at least one zero on the circle $|z| = R_0(f)$, and the terms of the sequence $\{f_n\}$ (n = 1, 2, ...) satisfy

$$f_{n+k} + \beta_{n,1}f_{n+k-1} + \dots + \beta_{n,k}f_n = 0, \qquad \lim_{n \to \infty} \beta_{n,p} = \beta_p, \qquad p = 1, \dots, k,$$
 (3.3)

the polynomial $\beta(z) := 1 + \beta_1 z + \cdots + \beta_k z^k$ ($\beta_k \neq 0$) divides α , all its roots are equal in modulus to $R_0(f)$, and at least one of them is a singular point of f.

Buslaev's theorem can be supplemented by the following assertion (see [3]).

Supplement to Buslaev's Theorem. Suppose that the power series (3.1) is not a polynomial, $R_0(f) = \infty$, and

$$\alpha_{n,0}f_n + \alpha_{n,-1}f_{n+1} + \dots = 0 \quad (n = 1, 2, \dots)$$
(3.4)

where the $\alpha_n(z) = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \alpha_{n,-p} z^{-p}$ (n = 1, 2, ...) are holomorphic and converge to $\alpha(z)$ in the exterior of some disk as $n \to \infty$. Then $\alpha(\infty) = 0$, and the coefficients $\{f_n\}$ of the series (3.1) satisfy

$$\epsilon_{n,0}f_n + \dots + \epsilon_{n,-N+1}f_{n+N-1} + f_{n+N} = 0, \qquad \lim_{n \to \infty} \epsilon_{n,p} = \epsilon_p, \qquad p = 0, -1, \dots, -N+1,$$
(3.5)

N being the multiplicity of the zero of α at $z = \infty$.

This result will be useful in the next section to prove Lemma 3.2.

3.2 Incomplete multipoint Padé approximants

Let us introduce the notion of incomplete multipoint Padé approximants. A similar concept turned out to be effective in the study of Hermite-Padé approximation in [4] and [5] for proving results of inverse type.

Definition 3.1. Let $f \in \mathcal{H}(E)$. Fix $m \ge m^* \ge 1$ and $n \ge m$. We say that the rational function $R_{n,m}$ is an *incomplete multipoint Padé approximant of type* (n, m, m^*) corresponding to f if $R_{n,m}$ is the quotient of any two polynomials $P_{n,m}$, $Q_{n,m}$ that verify

c.1) deg $P_{n,m} \leq n - m^*$, deg $Q_{n,m} \leq m$, $Q_{n,m} \not\equiv 0$,

c.2)
$$\frac{Q_{n,m}f - P_{n,m}}{a_{n+1}} \in \mathcal{H}(E)$$

where $a_n(z) = \prod_{k=1}^n (z - \alpha_{n,k}).$

Since $Q_{n,m} \neq 0$, we normalize it to be monic. We call $Q_{n,m}$ the denominator of the corresponding (n, m, m^*) incomplete multipoint Padé approximant of f. Notice that for each $k = 1, \ldots, d$, the polynomial $Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}$, given in Definition 1.1, is a denominator of an $(n, |\mathbf{m}|, m_k)$ incomplete multipoint Padé approximant of f_k .

In this section, we will study the relation between the convergence of $Q_{n,m}$ and some analytic properties of f.

Lemma 3.2. Let $f \in \mathcal{H}(E)$ and fix $m \ge m^* \ge 1$. Suppose that f is not a rational function with at most $m^* - 1$ poles and there exists a polynomial Q_m of degree m such that

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \|Q_{n,m} - Q_m\|^{1/n} \le \theta < 1.$$
(3.6)

Then, either f has exactly m^* poles in $D_{\rho_{m^*}(f)}$ or $\rho_0(Q_m f) > \rho_{m^*}(f)$, where $\rho_{m^*}(f)$ is the index of the largest canonical region to which f can be extended as a meromorphic function with at most m^* poles counting multiplicities.

Proof. Let $\{\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_{\omega}\}$ be the distinct poles of f in $D_{\rho_{m^*}(f)}$ and $\tau_1, \ldots, \tau_{\omega}$ be their orders, respectively. Consequently,

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\omega} \tau_j \le m^*.$$

Modifying conveniently the proof of (2.2), one can show that for $j = 1, \ldots, \omega$

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} |Q_{n,m}^{(\nu)}(\xi_j)|^{1/n} \le \frac{|\Phi_E(\xi_j)|}{\rho_{m^*}(f)} < 1, \qquad \nu = 0, 1, \dots, \tau_j - 1.$$
(3.7)

Since the sequence of polynomials $Q_{n,m}$ converges to Q_m , (3.7) entails that ξ_j is a zero of Q_m of multiplicity at least τ_j . Being this the case, we have

$$\rho_0(Q_m f) \ge \rho_{m^*}(f)$$

Suppose that $\rho_0(Q_m f) = \rho_{m^*}(f)$. To conclude the proof, let us show that in this situation f has exactly m^* poles in $D_{\rho_{m^*}(f)}$. To the contrary, suppose that f has in $D_{\rho_{m^*}(f)}$ at most $m^* - 1$ poles. Then, there exists a polynomial deg $Q_{m^*} < m^*$ such that

$$\rho_0(Q_{m^*}f) = \rho_{m^*}(f) = \rho_0(Q_m Q_{m^*}f).$$

It follows from Definition 3.1 that

$$\frac{Q_{m^*}(Q_{n,m}f - P_{n,m})}{a_{n+1}} \in \mathcal{H}(E).$$

Then

$$\int_{\Gamma_{\rho}} \frac{Q_{m^*}(z)(Q_{n,m}f - P_{n,m})(z)}{a_{n+1}(z)} dz = 0,$$

where $1 < \rho < \rho_{m^*}(f)$. Since each one of the n+1 zeros of the polynomial a_{n+1} lies on E and $\deg(Q_{m^*}P_{n,m}) \leq n-1$, it follows that

$$\int_{\Gamma_{\rho}} \frac{Q_{m^{*}}(z)P_{n,m}(z)}{a_{n+1}(z)} dz = 0.$$

$$\int_{\Gamma_{\rho}} \frac{Q_{m^{*}}(z)Q_{n,m}(z)f(z)}{a_{n+1}(z)} dz = 0.$$
(3.8)

Then, by (1.3),

Therefore,

$$\frac{1}{\rho_{m^*}(f)} = \frac{1}{\rho_0(Q_m Q_{m^*} f)} = c \cdot \limsup_{n \to \infty} \left| \int_{\Gamma_\rho} \frac{(Q_m Q_{m^*} f)(t)}{a_{n+1}(t)} dt \right|^{1/n} \\ = c \cdot \limsup_{n \to \infty} \left| \int_{\Gamma_\rho} \frac{(Q_{m^*} f)(t)}{a_{n+1}(t)} \left(Q_{n,m} - Q_m \right)(t) dt \right|^{1/n}.$$

Using (1.2) and (3.6) to estimate the last integral, it readily follows that

$$\frac{1}{\rho_{m^*}(f)} \le \frac{\theta}{\rho_{m^*}(f)}, \qquad \theta < 1,$$

which implies that $\rho_{m^*}(f) = \infty$. Now, let us show that this is not possible.

Take $F(w) := Q_{m^*}(\Psi_E(w))f(\Psi_E(w))$, where $\Psi_E = \Phi_E^{-1}$. Let γ be a contour encircling $\{w \in \mathbb{C} : |w| = 1\}$ lying in the domain of holomorphy of F. Using (3.8), we obtain

$$0 = \int_{\gamma} \frac{F(w)Q_{n,m}(\Psi_E(w))}{a_{n+1}(\Psi_E(w))} \Psi'_E(w) dw =$$
$$\int_{\gamma} F(w) \frac{Q_{n,m}(\Psi_E(w))}{w^m} \frac{w^{n+1}}{a_{n+1}(\Psi_E(w))} \Psi'_E(w) \frac{dw}{w^{n+1-m}}$$

Setting

$$\alpha_n(w) = \frac{Q_{n,m}(\Psi_E(w))}{w^m} \frac{(cw)^{n+1}}{a_{n+1}(\Psi_E(w))} \Psi'_E(w),$$

the previous equality means that

$$[F\alpha_n]_{n-m} = 0. aga{3.9}$$

The functions α_n (n = 1, 2, ...) are holomorphic in the exterior of the unit disk (including $w = \infty$) and, due to (1.2) and (3.6), converge as $n \to \infty$ to

$$\alpha(w) = \Psi'_E(w) \frac{Q_m(\Psi_E(w))}{w^m G(\Psi_E(w))} = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \alpha_{-p} w^{-p}, \qquad \alpha_0 = \alpha(\infty) \neq 0.$$

Let $\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} F_n w^n$ be the Laurent expansion of the function F outside the unit circle, i.e.

$$F(w) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} F_n w^n = F_1(w) + F_2(w),$$

where $F_1(w) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} F_n w^n$. Then, $R_0(F_1) = \infty$ and (3.9) holds (for all sufficiently large n) replacing F with F_1 . According to the Supplement to Buslaev's Theorem and the fact that $\alpha(\infty) \neq 0$, we get that F_1 must be a polynomial. Consequently, F is either analytic or has a pole at ∞ . In turn this implies that $Q_{m^*}f$ is either analytic or has a pole at ∞ . However, $Q_{m^*}f$ is an entire function because it is holomorphic in \mathbb{C} since $R_0(Q_{m^*}f) = \infty$. Therefore, $Q_{m^*}f$ is a polynomial, or what is the same f is a rational function with at most $m^* - 1$ poles against our hypothesis on f. This contradiction implies that the assumption that f had in $D_{\rho_{m^*}(f)}$ at most $m^* - 1$ poles is impossible. So the number of poles on f in $D_{\rho_{m^*}(f)}$ must equal m^* .

3.3 Polynomial independence

Let us introduce the concept of polynomial independence of a vector of functions.

Definition 3.3. A vector $\mathbf{f} = (f_1, \ldots, f_d) \in \mathcal{H}(E)^d$ is said to be *polynomially independent with* respect to $\mathbf{m} = (m_1, \ldots, m_d) \in \mathbb{N}^d$ if there do not exist polynomials p_1, \ldots, p_d , at least one of which is non-null, such that

(i) $\deg p_k < m_k, \ k = 1, \dots, d,$

(ii) $\sum_{k=1}^{d} p_k f_k$ is a polynomial.

In particular, polynomial independence implies that for each k = 1, ..., d, f_k is not a rational function with at most $m_k - 1$ poles.

Lemma 3.4. Let $\mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{H}(E)^d$ and fix a multi-index $\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{N}^d$. Suppose that for all $n \ge n_0$, the polynomial $Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}$ is unique and deg $Q_{n,\mathbf{m}} = |\mathbf{m}|$. Then the system \mathbf{f} is polynomially independent with respect to \mathbf{m} .

Proof. Except for a small detail, the proof coincides with that of [5, Lemma 3.2]. Given $\mathbf{f} := (f_1, \ldots, f_d) \in \mathcal{H}(E)^d$ and $\mathbf{m} := (m_1, \ldots, m_d) \in \mathbb{N}^d$, we consider the associated system

$$\overline{\mathbf{f}} := (f_1, \dots, z^{m_1-1}f_1, f_2, \dots, z^{m_d-1}f_d) = (\overline{f}_1, \dots, \overline{f}_{|\mathbf{m}|}).$$

We also define an associated multi-index $\overline{\mathbf{m}} := (1, \ldots, 1)$ with $|\mathbf{m}| = |\overline{\mathbf{m}}|$. The systems \mathbf{f} and $\overline{\mathbf{f}}$ share most properties. In particular, poles and system poles of $(\mathbf{f}.\mathbf{m})$ and $(\overline{\mathbf{f}},\overline{\mathbf{m}})$ coincide and \mathbf{f} is polynomially independent with respect to \mathbf{m} if and only if $\overline{\mathbf{f}}$ is polynomially independent with respect to $\overline{\mathbf{m}}$. Passing to $(\overline{\mathbf{f}},\overline{\mathbf{m}})$ if necessary and relabeling the functions, we can assume without loss of generality that $\mathbf{m} = (1, \ldots, 1)$ and $d = |\mathbf{m}|$.

Suppose that there exist constants c_k , k = 1, ..., d, not all zero, such that $\sum_{k=1}^{d} c_k f_k$ is a polynomial. Without loss of generality, we can assume that $c_1 \neq 0$. Then,

$$f_1 = p - \sum_{k=2}^d c_k f_k,$$

where p is a polynomial of degree N.

On the other hand, for each $n \ge d-1$, there exist polynomials Q_n , $P_{n,k}$, $k = 2, \ldots, d$, such that for all $k = 2, \ldots, d$,

- deg
$$P_{n,k} \le n-1$$
, deg $Q_n \le d-1$, $Q_n \ne 0$,
- $\frac{Q_n f_k - P_{n,k}}{a_{n+1}} \in \mathcal{H}(E)$.

Therefore,

$$\frac{Q_n\left(p - \sum_{k=2}^d c_k f_k\right) - \left(Q_n p - \sum_{k=2}^d c_k P_{n,k}\right)}{a_{n+1}} \in \mathcal{H}(E)$$

and, for $n \ge d + N$, the polynomial $P_{n,1} = Q_n p - \sum_{k=2}^d c_k P_{n,k}$ verifies deg $P_{n,1} \le n-1$. Thus, for all *n* sufficiently large, the polynomials $P_{n,k}$, $k = 1, \ldots, d$ satisfy Definition 1.1 with respect to **f** and **m**. Naturally, Q_n gives rise to a polynomial $Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}$ with deg $Q_{n,\mathbf{m}} < d = |\mathbf{m}|$ against our assumption on $Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}$.

The following corollary is a straightforward consequence of Lemma 3.2.

Corollary 3.5. Let $\mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{H}(E)^d$ and fix a multi-index $\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{N}^d$. Assume that \mathbf{f} is polynomially independent with respect to \mathbf{m} and there exists a polynomial $Q_{\mathbf{m}}$ of degree $|\mathbf{m}|$ such that.

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \|Q_{n,\mathbf{m}} - Q_{\mathbf{m}}\|^{1/n} \le \theta < 1.$$
(3.10)

Then for each k = 1, ..., d, either f_k has exactly m_k poles in $D_{\rho_{m_k}(f_k)}$ or $\rho_0(Q_{\mathbf{m}}f_k) > \rho_{m_k}(f_k)$.

Before proving the inverse statement of Theorem 1.3, we wish to describe some properties of system poles. For the proof see [5, Lemma 3.5].

Lemma 3.6. Let $\mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{H}(E)^d$ and $\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{N}^d$. Then, \mathbf{f} can have at most $|\mathbf{m}|$ system poles with respect to \mathbf{m} (counting their order). Moreover, if the system \mathbf{f} has exactly $|\mathbf{m}|$ system poles with respect to \mathbf{m} and ξ is a system pole of order τ , then for all $s > \tau$ there can be no polynomial combination of the form (1.4) holomorphic in a neighborhood of $\overline{D}_{|\Phi(\xi)|}$ except for a pole at $z = \xi$ of exact order s.

3.4 Proof $(b) \Rightarrow (a)$

Arguing as in the beginning of the proof of Lemma 3.4, we can assume without loss of generality that $\mathbf{m} = (1, 1, ..., 1)$ and $|\mathbf{m}| = d$. From Definition 3.3, it readily follows that \mathbf{f} is polynomially independent with respect to \mathbf{m} if and only if there do not exist constants c_k , $k = 1, ..., |\mathbf{m}|$, not all zero, such that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{|\mathbf{m}|} c_k f_k$$

is a polynomial. Due to Lemma 3.4, on account of the hypothesis, we know that \mathbf{f} is polynomially independent with respect to \mathbf{m} . We must show that \mathbf{f} has exactly $|\mathbf{m}|$ system poles with respect to \mathbf{m} .

The auxiliary results that we have obtained allow us to adapt the proof employed in [5], where classical Hermite-Padé approximation was considered. For completeness we include the whole proof.

The scheme is as follows. First, we collect a set of $|\mathbf{m}|$ candidates to be system poles of **f** (counting their orders) and prove that they are zeros of $Q_{\mathbf{m}}$. In the second part we prove that all these points previously selected are actually system poles of **f**.

Notice that for each $k = 1, ..., |\mathbf{m}|$, by Corollary 3.5, either $D_{\rho_1(f_k)}$ contains exactly one pole of f_k and it is a zero of $Q_{\mathbf{m}}$, or $\rho_0(Q_{\mathbf{m}}f_k) > \rho_1(f_k)$. Hence, $D_{\rho_0(\mathbf{f})} \neq \mathbb{C}$ and $Q_{\mathbf{m}}$ contains as zeros all the poles of f_k on the boundary of $D_{\rho_0(f_k)}$ counting their order for $k = 1, ..., |\mathbf{m}|$. Moreover, the function f_k cannot have on the boundary of $D_{\rho_0(f_k)}$ singularities other than poles. Hence, the poles of \mathbf{f} on the boundary of $D_{\rho_0(\mathbf{f})}$ are all zeros of $Q_{\mathbf{m}}$ counting multiplicities and the boundary contains no other singularity except poles. Let us call them candidate system poles of \mathbf{f} and denote them by a_1, \ldots, a_{n_1} repeated according to their order. They constitute the first layer of candidate system poles of \mathbf{f} .

Since deg $Q_{\mathbf{m}} = |\mathbf{m}|$, $n_1 \leq |\mathbf{m}|$. If $n_1 = |\mathbf{m}|$, we are done. Let us assume that $n_1 < |\mathbf{m}|$ and let us find coefficients $c_1, \ldots, c_{|\mathbf{m}|}$ such that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{|\mathbf{m}|} c_k f_k$$

is holomorphic in a neighborhood of $\overline{D}_{\rho_0(\mathbf{f})}$. Finding those $c_1, \ldots, c_{|\mathbf{m}|}$ reduces to solving a homogeneous system of n_1 linear equations with $|\mathbf{m}|$ unknowns. In fact, if z = a is a candidate system pole of \mathbf{f} with order τ , we obtain τ equations choosing the coefficients c_k so that

$$\int_{|\omega-a|=\delta} (\omega-a)^k \left(\sum_{k=1}^{|\mathbf{m}|} c_k f_k(\omega)\right) d\omega = 0, \qquad k = 0, \dots, \tau - 1.$$
(3.11)

We obtain the same type of equations for each distinct candidate system pole on the boundary of $D_{\rho_0(\mathbf{f})}$. Combining these equations, we obtain a homogeneous system of n_1 linear equations with $|\mathbf{m}|$ unknowns. Moreover, this homogeneous system of linear equations has at least $|\mathbf{m}| - n_1$ linearly independent solutions, which we denote by \mathbf{c}_j^1 , $j = 1, \ldots, |\mathbf{m}| - n_1^*$, where $n_1^* \leq n_1$ denotes the rank of the system of equations.

Let

$$\mathbf{c}_{j}^{1} := (c_{j,1}^{1}, \dots, c_{j,|\mathbf{m}|}^{1}), \qquad j = 1, \dots, |\mathbf{m}| - n_{1}^{*}$$

Define the $(|\mathbf{m}| - n_1^*) \times |\mathbf{m}|$ dimensional matrix

$$C^1 := \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{c}_1^1 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{c}_{|\mathbf{m}|-n_1^*}^1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Define the vector \mathbf{g}_1 of $|\mathbf{m}| - n_1^*$ functions given by

$$\mathbf{g}_1^t := C^1 \mathbf{f}^t = (g_{1,1}, \dots, g_{1,|\mathbf{m}| - n_1^*})^t$$

where $(\cdot)^t$ means taking transpose. Since all the rows of C^1 are non-null and **f** is polynomially independent with respect to **m**, none of the functions

$$g_{1,j} = \sum_{k=1}^{|\mathbf{m}|} c_{j,k}^1 f_k, \qquad j = 1, \dots, |\mathbf{m}| - n_1^*$$

are polynomials.

Consider the canonical domain

$$D_{\rho_0(\mathbf{g}_1)} = \bigcap_{j=1}^{|\mathbf{m}| - n_1^*} D_{\rho_0(g_{1,j})}.$$

Obviously, by construction, $D_{\rho_0(\mathbf{f})}$ is strictly included in $D_{\rho_0(\mathbf{g}_1)}$. Therefore, for each $j = 1, \ldots, |\mathbf{m}| - n_1^*$, $Q_{n,\mathbf{m}}$ is a denominator of an $(n, |\mathbf{m}|, 1)$ multipoint incomplete Padé approximant of $g_{1,j}$. Since the $g_{1,j}$ are not polynomials, by Lemma 3.2 with $m^* = 1$, for each $j = 1, \ldots, |\mathbf{m}| - n_1^*$, either $D_{\rho_1(g_{1,j})}$ contains exactly one pole of $g_{1,j}$ and it is a zero of $Q_{\mathbf{m}}$, or $\rho_0(Q_{\mathbf{m}}g_{1,j}) > \rho_1(g_{1,j})$. In particular, $D_{\rho_0(\mathbf{g}_1)} \neq \mathbb{C}$ and all the singularities of \mathbf{g}_1 on the boundary of $D_{\rho_0(\mathbf{g}_1)}$ are poles which are zeros of $Q_{\mathbf{m}}$ counting their order. They form the next layer of candidate system poles of \mathbf{f} .

Denote by $a_{n_1+1}, \ldots, a_{n_1+n_2}$ the new candidate system poles. We repeat the arguments employed above. If $n_1 + n_2 = |\mathbf{m}|$, we are done. Otherwise, $n_2 < |\mathbf{m}| - n_1 \leq |\mathbf{m}| - n_1^*$ and we eliminate the n_2 poles $a_{n_1+1}, \ldots, a_{n_1+n_2}$ as we did on the first layer. We have $|\mathbf{m}| - n_1^*$ functions which are holomorphic on $D_{\rho_0(\mathbf{g}_1)}$ and meromorphic on a neighborhood of $\overline{D}_{\rho_0(\mathbf{g}_1)}$. The corresponding homogeneous system of linear equations, similar to (3.11), has at least $|\mathbf{m}| - n_1^* - n_2^*$ linearly independent solutions \mathbf{c}_i^2 , where $n_2^* \leq n_2$ is the rank of the new system. Let

$$\mathbf{c}_{j}^{2} := (c_{j,1}^{2}, \dots, c_{j,|\mathbf{m}|-n_{1}^{*}}^{2}), \qquad j = 1, \dots, |\mathbf{m}| - n_{1}^{*} - n_{2}^{*}.$$

Define the $(|\mathbf{m}| - n_1^* - n_2^*) \times (|\mathbf{m}| - n_1^*)$ dimensional matrix

$$C^2 := \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{c}_1^2 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{c}_{|\mathbf{m}|-n_1^*-n_2^*}^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Define the vector \mathbf{g}_2 of $|\mathbf{m}| - n_1^* - n_2^*$ functions given by

$$\mathbf{g}_{2}^{t} := C^{2} \mathbf{g}_{1}^{t} = C^{2} C^{1} \mathbf{f}^{t} = (g_{2,1}, \dots, g_{2,|\mathbf{m}| - n_{1}^{*} - n_{2}^{*}})^{t}.$$

It is a basic fact from linear algebra that if C^1 has full rank and C^2 has full rank, then C^2C^1 has full rank. This means that the rows of C^2C^1 are linearly independent, particulary, they are non-null. Therefore, none of the component functions of \mathbf{g}_2 are polynomials because of the polynomial independence of \mathbf{f} with respect to \mathbf{m} . Thus, we can apply again Lemma 3.2. Using finite induction, we find a total on $|\mathbf{m}|$ candidate system poles.

In fact, on each layer of system poles, $n_k \geq 1$. Therefore, in a finite number of steps, say N-1, their sum equals to $|\mathbf{m}|$. Consequently, the number of candidate system poles of \mathbf{f} in some canonical domain, counting multiplicities, is exactly equal to $|\mathbf{m}|$, and they are precisely the zeros of $Q_{\mathbf{m}}$ as we wanted to prove.

Summarizing, in the N-1 steps we have taken, we have produced N layers of candidate system poles. Each layer contains n_k candidates, k = 1, ..., N. At the same time, on each step k, k = 1, ..., N-1, we have solved a system of n_k linear equations, of rank n_k^* , with $|\mathbf{m}| - n_1^* - \cdots - n_k^*, n_k^* \leq n_k$, linearly independent solutions. We find ourselves on the N-th layer with n_N candidates.

Let us try to eliminate the poles on the last layer. Write the corresponding homogeneous system of linear equations as in (3.11), and we get n_N equations where

$$n_N = |\mathbf{m}| - n_1 - \dots - n_{N-1} \le |\mathbf{m}| - n_1^* - \dots - n_{N-1}^* =: \overline{n}_N$$

with \overline{n}_N unknowns. For each candidate system pole *a* of multiplicity τ on the *N*-th layer, we impose the equations

$$\int_{|\omega-a|=\delta} (\omega-a)^j \left(\sum_{k=1}^{\overline{n}_N} c_k g_{N-1,k}(\omega)\right) d\omega = 0, \quad j = 0, \dots, \tau - 1,$$
(3.12)

where δ is sufficiently small and the $g_{N-1,k}$, $k = 1, \ldots, \overline{n}_N$, are the functions associated with the linearly independent solutions produced on step N - 1.

Let n_N^* be the rank of this last homogeneous system of linear equations. Assume that $n_k^* < n_k$ for some $k \in \{1, \ldots, N\}$. Then, the rank of the last system of equations is strictly less than the number of unknowns, namely $n_N^* < \overline{n}_N$. Therefore, repeating the same process, there exists a vector of functions

$$\mathbf{g}_N := (g_{N,1}, \dots, g_{N,|\mathbf{m}|-n_1^*-\dots-n_N^*})$$

such that none of the $g_{N,k}$ is a polynomial because of the polynomial independence of **f** with respect to **m**. Applying Lemma 3.2, each $g_{N,k}$ has on the boundary of its canonical domain of analyticity a pole which is a zero of $Q_{\mathbf{m}}$. However, this is impossible because all the zeros of $Q_{\mathbf{m}}$ are strictly contained in that canonical domain. Consequently, $n_k^* = n_k$, for all $k = 1, \ldots, N$.

We conclude that all the N homogeneous systems of linear equations that we have solved have full rank. This implies that if in any one of those N systems of equations we equate one of its equations to 1 instead of zero (see (3.11) or (3.12)), the corresponding nonhomogeneous system of linear equations has a solution. By the definition of a system pole, this implies that each candidate system pole is indeed a system pole of order at least equal to its multiplicity as zero of $Q_{\mathbf{m}}$. Moreover, by Lemma 3.6, **f** can have at most $|\mathbf{m}|$ system poles with respect to **m**; therefore, all candidate system poles are system poles, and their order coincides with the multiplicity of that point as a zero of $Q_{\mathbf{m}}$. This also means that $Q_{\mathbf{m}} = Q_{\mathbf{m}}^{\mathbf{f}}$. Thus, the proof of the inverse type result is complete.

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